Dividends of PSUs

†2639. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of dividend in Public Sector Undertakings has been assessed to be around 10 percent;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government expects the rate of dividend to be about 16 per cent on the foreign capital invested in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such a gap between the dividends of domestic and foreign capitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) The percentage of dividends declared on total equity of 240 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) as a whole, is worked out to 12.57% during 2002-03, as per the information available. All profit making PSEs are expected to pay dividend to Government of India as they would pay to any shareholder. Government has issued guidelines from time to time reiterating this position.

Use of bio-diesel in engines

2640. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NT Delhi has develop a passenger Car Engine which will run on bio-diesel fuel after modification in the existing diesel engines;

(b) whether the new technology can be used to run pumps sets and tractors for agriculture use;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether the bio-diesel fuel would be cheaper than the diesel presently used to run the engines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) As per information received from Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, that Ministry has sponsored a R&D project to Indian Institute of Techology, Delhi for production of bio-diesel from non-edible oil and field trials of diesel car with bio-diesel operation. Pungamia oil is being studied for production of bio-diesel and its effect on the performance of diesel engine.

According to Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, IIT, Delhi has been able to utilize bio-diesel produced from non-edible oil at a laboratory scale in a passenger car. No modifications in the existing diesel engine of the passenger car is required if an appropriate quality of bio-diesel is used.

(b) Bio-diesel blended with diesel can be used to run pump sets and tractors for agriculture use. IIT, Delhi in collaboration with M/s Escorts Ltd., Faridabad have demonstrated the utilization of bio-diesel with diesel in tractor engines.

(c) and (d) The cost of bio-diesel produced depends on the cost and type of non-edible vegetable oil used, plant capacity, type of technology adopted and the utilization of byproducts such as glycerine, bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides, etc. Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, has informed that it may not be appropriate to make any projections for the cost of bio-diesel produced on commercial scale on the basis of the project which is still in the research and development stage

Description of Pre-lndependence Revolutionaries

2641. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to Government's notice that pre-independence revollitionaires—Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru have been described as "terrorists" in a Bachelor of Arts history text book titled "Landmarks in World History (from Renaissance to 1945 AD)" printed by the Institute of Distance Education of the Mumbai University and prescribed to students for the course;